

In the Specification:

On page 1, after the title insert the following:

RELATED APPLICATION

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/FR2005/000195, filed on 31 January 2005.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, before line 8, insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, before line 36, insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, amend the paragraph beginning on line 36 through page 3, line 7 as follows:

Accordingly, ~~the technical problem to be solved by the subject matter~~ one object of the present invention is to provide ~~that of providing~~, in an intraframe video coding process that calculates virtual blocks associated with a current image block in given prediction directions, a method of finding the prediction direction of the current image block that reduces the calculation time needed to find the best prediction direction, i.e. the prediction direction that yields the virtual block closest to the current block.

On page 3, amend the paragraph beginning on line 8 through line 10 as follows:

~~According to~~ One aspect of the present invention is directed to a ~~, the solution to the~~
~~stated technical problem consists in said~~ method comprising the following steps:

On page 4, amend the paragraph beginning on line 33 as follows:

Finally, an embodiment of the invention also provides for said initial prediction directions to be vertical and horizontal directions as defined in the H.264/MPEG-4 AVC standard. These directions are those whose interpolations relative to the other diagonal directions are the simplest to calculate.

On page 5, delete the paragraph beginning on line 3 through line 6 in its entirety.

On page 5, before line 7, insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 5, amend the paragraph beginning on line 10 as follows:

Figure 2 is the same diagram as Figure 1 indicating the initial prediction directions used by ~~the~~ a method of in accordance with the invention.

On page 5, amend the paragraph beginning on line 16 as follows:

Figure 4 is a flowchart of ~~the~~ a method ~~of~~ in accordance with the invention.

On page 5, before line 18, insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS